

C O P Y

2 November 1950

Dr. A. Whitney Griswold  
President  
Yale University  
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Griswold:

I wish to express my deep appreciation to you and through you to the members of the corporation of Yale College for the generous and patriotic action of the University in granting leave of absence to Dr. Sherman Kent for a period of service with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Aware of Dr. Kent's great importance as an historian and educator and the value of his services to Yale University, I was most reluctant to exert the pressure which I put upon him to return to intelligence work. However, at this critical time, it is literally impossible to exaggerate the importance of intelligence to the security of this country. Under these circumstances, I know you will understand my action in pressing Dr. Kent into this service and the depth of my appreciation of his willingness to serve and of Yale University's permission that he do so.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely,

signed

WALTER B. SMITH  
Director